

**MINUTES OF THE EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING**

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2008

Hanaford School Cafeteria

200 Middle Road

East Greenwich, RI 02818

**ANY ITEMS CONSIDERED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAY BE
SUBJECT TO A**

VOTE

6:00p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

**1. Discussion of Performance Audit – Ernest A. Almonte, Auditor
General.**

**Mrs. Guliano stated that she asked Mr. Almonte to attend the meeting
to explain to the School Committee how to do things better, faster
and smarter.**

7:00p.m.

Call to Order

**The second June School Committee meeting was called to order at
7:15p.m. in the Hanaford School Cafeteria. Members present were:
Sue Cienki, Chair, Skip Day, Vice-Chair, Merrill Friedemann, JeanAnn
Guliano, Mary Ellen Winters, Anne Palumbo, and Susan Records as
well as Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara, and Director of
Administration, Maryanne Crawford.**

2. Public Comments- There were no public comments.

3. Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Mrs. Friedemann and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2008 executive session and June 3, 2008 regular session.

4. Recognitions

4.1 Winter and Spring Sports and All-State and All-New England Swimming and Track

4.2 Paul and Charlotte Evasick-Coaches of the Year for Track

4.3 Bob Houghtaling-East Greenwich Drug and Substance Abuse Prevention Counselor. He thanked the School Committee and the town for the recognition. He stated that people have been very supportive.

5. New Business

5.1 Appointments

On a motion made by Mrs. Palumbo and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following appointments:

5.1.1 Cheryl Simmons, 0.6 Occupational Therapist, for the East Greenwich School District, effective August 26, 2008

5.1.2 Stephanie Lavoie, and Marta Chace, co-freshman class advisors at East Greenwich High School

5.1.3 Stacey Munzert, 0.6 Art Teacher at East Greenwich High School

5.2 Parental Leaves

On a motion made by Mrs. Guliano and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously to approve parental leaves 5.2.2 and

5.2.3.

5.2.1 Erin Oda Osman, from August 26, 2008 to the end of the 08-09 school year. Item 5.2.1 was tabled in order to get more clarification.

5.2.2 Melissa Quinn, from August 26, 2008 to the end of the 08-09 school year

5.2.3 Megan Anastasi, from August 26, 2008 until 12-1-08

Mrs. Guliano made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to table item 5.2.1 in order to get more clarification. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion of Transportation Policy

Mr. Meyers stated that transportation to Child Care facilities may increase as more parents return to work. He has tried to accommodate people in the past but the present policy isn't clear. The policy now is primarily for kindergarten kids. Now, parents make a request to

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the bus company. Mrs. Friedemann feels we need a policy and can't be discretionary. Mr. Meyers will develop language to bring back to the Committee.

7. Second Reading of Revisions to EGHS Handbook

Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the revisions to the high school student handbook. Freshman toolbox and senior privileges were eliminated. Changes to the eligibility standards for athletic and co-curricular activities are being proposed as well. Changes to the discipline code are being

proposed including a new smoking policy for third and subsequent offenses, and cutting of class/truancy/leaving school grounds for 4th and subsequent offenses. The motion passed with Mrs. Cienki and Mrs. Winters voting no.

8. Update on School Resource Officer Program

Resource Officers Al Marcella and Chris Rafferty were resent at the meeting to give an update on the program at Cole and East Greenwich High School. Officer Al feels that having Resource Officers in the building deters crime in the buildings. He noted that the Chief of Police determines how they are to be used. Officer Al stated that there were 52 complaints in the schools during the 2007-2008 school year and he has been in mediation daily. Some of the duties are working with Bob Houghtaling, the Drug and Substance Abuse Counselor, and giving presentations on bullying, internet safety and drug and alcohol awareness. Officer Al stated that their salaries are currently coming out of the police department budget. Mr. Meyers stated that Officers Al and Chris provide a level of security which enhances our culture and safety. He hopes the program lasts for several years. Mrs. Guliano asked if there are any gaps in the high school. Officer Al responded that doors need to be kept closed and there has been talk about TV monitors and buzzing people into the building, but he feels the building is secure.

9. Budget Adjustments for FY 2009

Mrs. Crawford stated that the school department did not budget for an additional first grade teacher. She noted that principals have been told that any new teachers should be hired at the first step when

possible. She noted that there will be a meeting to make a decision on building paraprofessionals, possibly cutting one from every building. Mr. Meyers noted that all paraprofessionals have specific skill sets and some are needed for supervision. He added that displacement of paraprofessionals is a process we need to follow, and we will have a job fair in August. Mrs. Friedemann would like to qualifications for the jobs in the contract and the school department should have final say in order to follow federal laws. Mr. Meyers noted that we could be put into a situation where our least qualified people are put into the most challenging situations. Mrs. Cienki noted that the Town took \$500,000 out of the school's budget and we therefore cut a first grade teacher, and gave the audit and plowing and landscaping to the town. Mrs. Cienki noted that we cannot take our money out of West Bay because we needed to notify them by March 1. She added that we previously withdrew \$150,000 from West Bay.

10. School Committee Concerns

Mrs. Winters commended Mr. Podraza for stepping up during the recent issues at the high school

11. On a motion made by Mr. Day and seconded by Mrs. Guliano, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:30p.m. to go into Executive Session under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2) Custodian and Secretary/Paraprofessional Contract Negotiations

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani
Secretary